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5 October 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR: CHIEF, EE

SUBJECT: Monthly Report for EE-I for September 1951

1. Developments during the past month in the field of agent penetration into both Albania and Bulgaria indicate that a re-examination of operational concepts and methods is in order. Initial penetrations into both countries were necessarily of an exploratory nature. The experience acquired to date not only confirms our original assumptions but also emphasizes the need to bring present operating methods more closely in line with basic concepts. It is apparent from our experience in Albania that (1) the national refugee political centers have great potential appeal value for the captive populations, (2) initial operations conducted in the name of the National Committee meet with enthusiastic reception, (3) continued popular support of the CIA-supported Committee will be proportional to the concrete contribution the refugee organization makes in the struggle against the regime, and (4) in order for propaganda and political action programs to be effective from the long-range point of view, they must be coordinated with the infiltration schedule and the development of an effective underground. Furthermore, the September debriefings of agents infiltrated into Albania indicate that the population desires that the agents remain in the resistance area and that certain strong centers headed by leaders of some stature be developed as nuclei to which resistance elements can gravitate. Recent experience, therefore, would indicate that agent teams should be selected on the basis of their area knowledge, local prestige and leadership ability, rather than on political or operational considerations of a general nature, and that such teams should be prepared to take up more or less permanent positions inside the country.

2. With respect to Bulgaria, the severe handicaps under which infiltration operations have been carried on to date were brought into focus by the capture, trial and conviction of six OPC agents during September. This setback indicated the need for a better educated and more intelligent type of personnel, since to a considerable extent the agents' capture was due to errors of judgement and a lack of elementary discretion. An outstanding need clearly exists for agent personnel of superior abilities to carry out successfully the missions assigned to them. The availability of a number of high-caliber agents should permit a reduction in the number of individual penetration teams. With fewer agent organizers, a net of considerable scale and well-compartmented could thus probably be developed in Bulgaria with less risk of compromising the techniques and personnel employed.

3. In propaganda, the most notable gains were the initiation of regular clandestine radio broadcasts to Albania on 18 September, which

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have already been well-publicized by Western news and propaganda media, and the air-dropping of 100,000 copies of a special edition of Shqipëria, the NCFA newspaper. The latter featured a reply to the propaganda line put out by the Yugoslav-sponsored League of Political Refugees at the Prizren Congress. The leaflet drops have been in the past the primary propaganda medium for penetrating the country, but the radio transmissions will permit a much greater flexibility of approach and can be directed at specific targets rather than the population at large, as is the case of the leaflets. Neither the army nor the Communist Party, both of which have ready access to receiving sets, are considered absolutely reliable and the potentialities for promoting defection in such groups via radio are especially promising.

4. With respect to the political centers, there is little activity or progress to report. Although the question of broadening the NCFA has been discussed in the U.S. by the OPC liaison officer [redacted] and intensive research is being conducted to ascertain the strengths of the various Albanian political elements involved, no decisions have yet been reached in this respect. The Rumanian emigre factions appear to be no closer to reaching a compromise basis for unification, but are apparently aware in certain cases that some type of U.S.-sponsored covert operational activity is in the offing and are apprehensive lest they be excluded from it. OPC political action in Greece has been hampered by the confused internal political situation resulting from the recent inconclusive election returns.

[redacted] Chief, EE-1 [redacted]

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